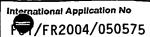
## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT



A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 H01J49/04 B05B B05B5/025 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) B01L B05B H01J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, WPI Data C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. Category 9 US 6 481 648 B1 (ZIMMERMANN HANS-PETER) 1-9 A 19 November 2002 (2002-11-19) the whole document WO 98/35376 A (CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF 1-9 Α TECHNOLOGY) 13 August 1998 (1998-08-13) page 3 - page 11; claims; figures 1,3 1-9 US 5 788 166 A (MCLAFFERTY FRED W ET AL) Α 4 August 1998 (1998-08-04) the whole document US 2003/082080 A1 (ZIMMERMANN HANS-PETER 1-9 ET AL) 1 May 2003 (2003-05-01) page 1 - page 4; claims; figures DE 100 00 691 A (FRAUNHOFER GES FORSCHUNG) 1-9 Α 26 July 2001 (2001-07-26) claims; figures Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an Inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 01/04/2005 18 March 2005 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Thanbichler, P

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